the next room, and she immediately went to sleep, although the pretended operator was not in the house and knew nothing about it. In a "good subject" it may be sufficient to impress upon their minds the idea that the event is about to take place, in order to secure its occurrence.

I have said that there was still *something* about hypnotism which had not yet been fathomed. By that I do not wish to be understood as saying that there is anything mysterious or supernatural in it. But simply that we do not yet understand sufficient of the intimate workings of mind, or of the relation between mind and matter to follow the connection between various mental attributes. We are accustomed to consider these attributes as seen in the ordinary or normal state, but are not prepared to say what would be the effect of abolishing or suspending certain functions, upon other functions of the mind.

In a well marked case of hypnotism in man, freed from all elements of deceit, the condition of the mind of the subject shows an alteration of normal functions and a perversion of the will power, so that he is completely under the guidance and control of the operator.

Sensation is also so perverted that it too appears to be at the mercy of the operator. Heidenhain expresses it in more exact language by saying that there is "inhibition of the cortical cells of the cerebrum."

(At the close of the reading of the paper, a hen and canary bird were introduced and successfully "mesmerized" by Dr. Prentiss.)

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RECENT LITERATURE.

OUSTALET'S MONOGRAPH OF THE MEGAPODIIDÆ.[1]—In this monograph, as in most monographs of vertebrate groups, the interrelation of whose species is known, the number of distinct forms has been reduced. As this reduction has been made after a thorough study of the examples in the British Museum, London Zoological Society and Leyden Museum, as well as those in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris, there is little doubt that the conclusions arrived at will be generally accepted.

This peculiar family of birds is remarkable for its practice of artificial incubation as well as for the strength and weight of its

[1] *Monographie des Megapodiidés.* Par M. E. OUSTALET. Annales des Sciences Naturelles. VIe ser. T. X., No. 4, p. 60. VIe ser. T. XI, No. 1, p. 48. VIe ser. T. XI No. 2. p. 134, pl. 2.

bones. According to Parker the entire skeleton of the great hornbill, *Buceros ruficollis*, is not three times the weight of the leg bone of a Talegalla. The real relations of these birds have long ago been proved to be with the Gallinaceæ or Rasores, and more recent researches have proved their close affinity to the Cracidæ. The classification adopted by M. Oustalet is, in the main, that of Huxley, that is to say, the Alectoromorphæ or typical Rasores include the groups Cracidæ, Megapodiidæ, Numididæ, Meleagridæ, Phasianidæ and Tetraonidæ in the order named.

The first part of the monograph is devoted to the consideration of the skeleton, muscles and digestive, respiratory and tegumentary systems; followed by a statement of the relations of the group with those around it.

Then follows a full description of each species, with measurements, habitat, and whatever is known of habits, food, etc. The genus Megacephalon includes one species only, *M. maleo*, the largest of the entire group, a native of the northern coast of Celebes and of the Island Siao, one of the Sanghir group. This fine bird lays in August and September, at which season it leaves the forest in pairs and proceeds to the sea-shore, where in coarse sand, above the level of the tides, it digs a hole four to five feet wide and one to two feet deep. In this the female lays a single egg, but the natives affirm that thirteen days afterwards the same pair return and a second egg is deposited. As many as seven or eight eggs may be contained in one hole, but it by no means follows that they are the product of the same pair. The top of the head of the male is adorned with a black casque about three centimeters in height.

The genus Leipoa contains also only a single species, *L. ocellata* (Gould), a native of the south-west of Australia, where it resides in the brushy prairies. It is of the size of a small turkey, but shorter in the legs. The natives say that it is so timid that in its haste to escape it often becomes entangled in the brush, and is thus easily caught. As a rule it lives on the ground, drinks seldom, feeds upon seeds and orthopterous and hemipterous insects, and sleeps upon the trees. Its nest is a mound forty or more feet in circumference and sometimes five feet high, built by the labors of both sexes out of the ferruginous gravel that forms the soil of the openings in the prairies, with a bed of leaves at its base in which the eggs are deposited. The egg is $3\frac{6}{10}$ inches long, and it is probable that several days intervene between the deposition of the successive eggs. However this may be, the native pheasant contrives to retard the development of the eggs first laid, for the young usually appear at the same time, break unassisted through the walls of their prison, and find ample food in the ants and ant larvæ that swarm within the mound.

The genus Telegalla contains seven species inhabiting Austra-

lia, New Guinea and some of the neighboring islands. The mounds built by these birds are entirely composed of vegetable matters collected industriously from the surface of the ground. That of *T. lathami* measures as much as six to seven feet in height and twelve to fourteen in diameter, but this pile is not the work of a single pair, and sometimes seems to contain the eggs of two females in the same season. The heat in the central portions of these mounds reaches 37° to 39° Centigrade. This Talegalla inhabits the whole of the eastern part of Australia, its eggs are highly prized both by aborigines and colonists, and the bird itself is easily tamed and of excellent flavor.

The remaining species of the genus inhabit New Guinea and the surrounding isles.

The most widely spread and largest genus of the family is that from which its name is derived. Nineteen species of Megapodius, distributed over a large part of Oceanica and in some of the Indian isles, are distinguished by our author. Most of these have somber, uniform plumage, and all live in brush or forest, generally near the sea, feed upon fruits, seeds, insects and worms, deposit their eggs in mounds of sand, earth and vegetable matter, and do not care for their young, which are robust and completely feathered when hatched. All run swiftly, but fly heavily. *M. dillwyni* inhabits the Philippine islands; *M. nicobariensis*, the islands from which it is named (it is the *Omaah*, *Meka* and *Dale* of the natives); *M. la perousii*, the Marianne islands; *M. senex*, the Pelew islands; *M. stairi*, Ninafou or Good Hope island near the Tonga archipelago; and *M. layardi*, the New Hebrides. Thus the geographical distribution of the group is much wider than has been hitherto believed.

The mounds of *M. duperreyi*, the best known species, a native of New Guinea and Queensland, sometimes reach a height of fourteen feet and a circumference of a hundred and forty feet, but such mounds are the work of generations of birds, and are only found in places where they have worked undisturbed by egg-hunting aborigines or colonists. A height of five or six feet is usual.

DONNELLY'S ATLANTIS.[1]—The author's purpose in preparing this book, is to demonstrate some thirteen propositions, several of which he claims to be novel; and here we think the author is correct. Some of them are as follows:

1. That there once existed in the Atlantic ocean, opposite the mouth of the Mediterranean sea, a large island, which was the remnant of an Atlantic continent, and known to the ancient world as Atlantis.

2. That the description of this island, given by Plato, is not, as has been long supposed, fable, but veritable history.

[1] *Atlantis: the Antediluvian World.* By IGNATIUS DONNELLY. Illustrated. New York, Harper & Brothers. 1882. 12mo, pp. 490.